(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The proposal has evoked mixed reactions from various telephone users.

(d) Decision has not yet been taken. Question of postponement does not arise.

(e) No additional revenue is anticipated.

(f) The degree of de-congestion will depend on the duration at which the calls are timed. This has not yet been decided.

Handing over properties of ITDc to Multinationals

4107. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have decided to hand over ITDC hotels to multinationals;

(b) if so whether the prominent boteliers in the country have protested against the decision of the Government to handover some of the properties of ITDC to multinationals; and

(c) if so, details thereof; and the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir, However, Government have formulated a scheme whereby small groups of ITDC hotels would be formed for the purpose of developing them as joint ventures with leading foreign hotels chains.

(b) The Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India have represented that the Indian hotel chains may also be permitted to participate in this scheme.

(c) as a much wider of objectives was being served by the scheme as formulated, it was not found feasible to agree to other suggestions.

[Translation]

Issue of bonds for Irrigation Projects in Maharashtra

4108. SHRI TEJSINGH RAO BHONSLE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOUCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Maharashtra has sought the approval of the Union Government to issue bonds to raise the funds for irrigation projects of the state;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which the approval is likely to be given; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). As the total investable resources for the market borrowing programme, both for the Central and State Governments, is limited there is not scope for allowing any additional allocation to Maharashtra Government over and above the borrowing programme as already approved.

[English]

Awarding of Contracts by Bokaro Steel Plant

4109. SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the normal practice followed by the Bokaro Steel Plant for awarding contracts;

(b) whether there has been any deviation from the normal practice in recent days; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and th outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOAHAN DEV): (a) Contracts are awarded on the basis of technically acceptable offers as recommended by a Tender Committee constituted for the purpose.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Telegraph Offices with Hindi facility

4110. SHRI VINAY KATIYAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of telegraph offices in the country alongwith the number of those in which facility to send and receive telegrams in Hindi is available;

(b) the number of telegraph offices in which English teleprinters have been provided but Hindi teleprinters have not been provided there; and

(c) the number of such telegraph offices in which teleprinters in Hindi have been provided but either these have not been installed or are out of order?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are 43933 telegraph offices in the country, out of which 21332 telegraph offices have facility to send and receive telegrams in Hindi.

(b) There are 868 telegraph offices in which only english teleprinters have been provided.

(c) There is no telegraph office in the country in which Hindi teleprinter has been provided but is not installed or out of order.

[*Translation*]

Waiting list of Telephone Connections in U.P.

4112. SHRI GAYA PRASAD KORI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons in waiting list to get telephone connections in Uttar Pradesh, district-wise; and

(b) the time by which telephone connections are likely to be provided?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The districtwise waiting list information as on 30th Sept. 91 has been given in the attached Statement.

(b) The objective of draft 8th Five Year Plan (1992–97) of the department for providing telephone connections is to:–

- provide telephone practically on demand in the rural and tribal areas and
- to contain the waiting list to two years period in charge telephone systems.

With the above objective, plans have been drawn to provide telephone connections to the waiting list applicants progressively during the 8th Plan period.